

Attachment 4. Project Description

The Shasta County Water Agency ("SCWA") seeks to develop a groundwater management plan ("GWMP") for the North Fork Battle Creek Basin (5-50) and improve its groundwater elevation monitoring plan.

North Fork Battle Creek Basin (5-50) underlies 12,760 acres in southeastern Shasta County. 7,744 parcels overlie the basin and there are 509 different landowners. The area contains no incorporated cities and the single largest land use is timber production. Due to adjacency to recreation, the next largest land zoning is "rural residential." Wells provide water to homes and vacation cabins. Development of a GWMP will help assure long term water supply reliability for residential use and help maintain healthy forests.

Pacific Gas and Electric operates McCumber Reservoir and part of North Fork Battle Creek as part of their Battle Creek generation complex. Bailey Creek is another major surface water aspect of the basin. There are numerous small water rights on these creeks which are used mostly for stock watering or other agriculture.

SCWA began elevation monitoring at a private well as part of the CASGEM program in 2011. Development of the monitoring plan for this basin was based on the willingness of landowners to allow SCWA staff to monitor or, if the owner had sufficient background, to self-monitor and report. This method did not consider hydrologic details of the basin, which the SCWA seeks to remedy during development of the GWMP. After areas of particular interest are identified, landowners with wells will again be contacted. This strategy will provide a better understanding of hydrologic features in the long term.

During development of the GWMP, the SCWA anticipates interacting predominantly with private citizens overlying the basin. Water Code §10753.2 requires Notice of Intent to adopt a GWMP in local papers. In addition, the Notice and a graphical representation of the basin and local landmarks (Figure 1) will be posted on the SCWA's website to help citizens determine if they are actually in the basin.

The local County Division of Environmental Health collects water quality information from three small water distribution systems. Two are private - one serving a cabin/camp retreat and the other a small campground – and SCWA Staff will attempt to contact these both in writing and by phone during plan development. The third water distribution system is the Lassen Pines Mutual Water Company ("LPMWC"), which has only part time staff. Staff has been contacted by phone and is supportive of GWMP development, but has declined so far to adopt a more formal declaration of support. Serving 399 parcels, the SCWA regards the LPMWC as central to the success of GWMP development, so will apprise them of developments both by phone and writing. SCWA is hopeful that LPMWC will assign a staff or board member to the Technical Advisory Committee.

As noted above, Pacific Gas and Electric operates reservoir and water transmission facilities in the area. Extra effort will be made to involve them. Sierra Pacific Industries also has large forest holdings in the basin, and their input will also be sought. Participation on the Technical Advisory Committee by one or both of these entities would be optimal.

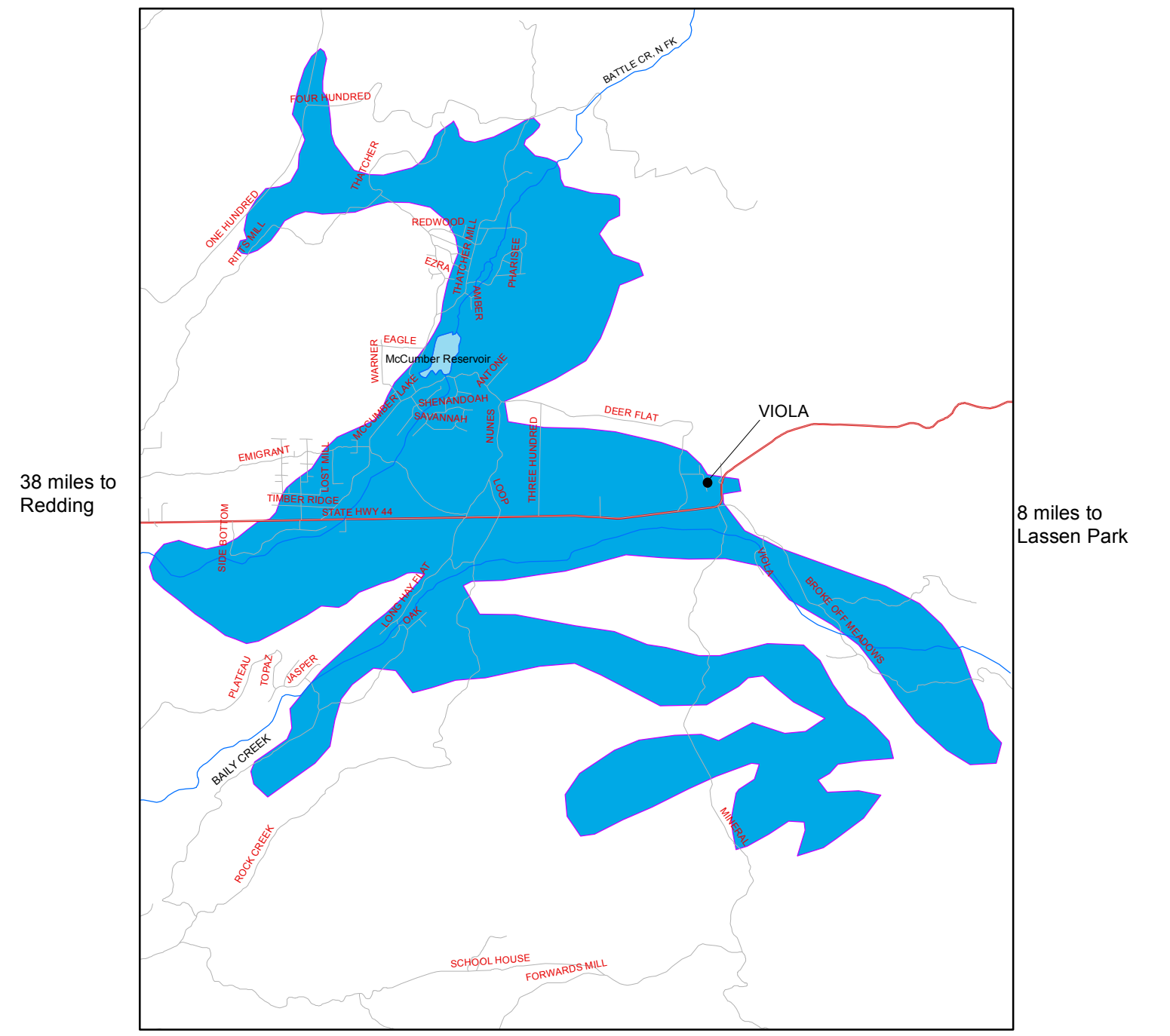
The County Division of Environmental Health will be contacted for input into water quality concerns.

After development of the GWMP, it must be implemented. As noted above, SCWA is already monitoring elevations in the basin; monitoring additional wells will not appreciably change resource commitments. Because GWMP's require Basin Management Objectives be communicated, a North Fork Battle Creek link will be added to the SCWA's web page; the County's Information Technology Department maintains the SCWA's web page based on memory allocated and this will not appreciably change resources commitment. The SCWA anticipates that it will be able to maintain and periodically update the GWMP into the foreseeable future.

FIGURE 1

NORTH FORK BATTLE CREEK

BASIN 5-50



- Legend**
- Streams
 - McCumber Reservoir
 - Roads
 - Major Roads
 - Basin 5-50